Mesoamerica has become one of the most important areas for research into the emergence
of complex human societies. Between 10,000 years ago and the arrival of the Spanish in
1521, some very significant changes in the evolution of human societies occurred. In this
revised and updated edition of a book first published in 1981, the authors synthesize recent
research, focusing on three intensively studied regions, the Valleys of Oaxaca and Mexico
and the Maya lowlands. A theoretical framework of ideas is developed to explain long-term
change in complex societies.

This volume brings together the work of some of the most
prominent archaeologists to document the impact of Jeffrey R. Parsons on contemporary
archaeological method and theory. Parsons is a central figure in the development of
settlement pattern archaeology, in which the goal is the study of whole social systems at
the scale of regions. In recent decades, regional archaeology has revolutionized how we
understand the past, contributing new data and theoretical insights on topics such as early
urbanism, social interactions among cities, towns and villages, and long-term population
and agricultural change, among many other topics relevant to the study of early
civilizations and the evolution of social complexity. Over the past 40 years, the application
of these methods by Parsons and others has profoundly changed how we understand the
evolution of pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican civilization, and now similar methods are being
applied in other world areas. The book’s emphasis is on the contribution of settlement
pattern archaeology to research in pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica, but its authors also point to
the value of regional research in South America, South Asia, and China. Topics addressed
include early urbanism, household and gender, agricultural and craft production, migration,
ethnogenesis, the evolution of early chiefdoms, and the emergence of pre-modern world-
systems.

Subsistence intensification, innovation and change have long figured prominently
in explanations for the development of social complexity among foragers and
horticulturalists. This set of global case studies re-examines the ‘subsistence question’ in
light of recent research. It contrasts traditional approaches with recent archaeological
research that presents human driven strategies for power, prestige, and status as causes of
subsistence intensification.
Evolution of the Zapotec and Mixtec Civilizations

insbesondere die der Azteken, Maya und Inka und ihrer Vorläufer, faszinierte lange Zeit
schon, weil sie geheimnisvoller, unbekannter erschien als die der Alten Welt. Forschungsfortschritte
der letzten Jahrzehnte, vor allem die Entzifferung der Maya-
Hieroglyphenschrift, brachten ungeahnte neue Erkenntnisse. Dem trägt die völlig neu
bearbeitete und um beinahe ein Drittel erweiterte Auflage der "Geschichte Altamerikas"
Rechnung, in der nun auch in das Schicksal der indianischen Bevölkerung unter der
spanischen Kolonialherrschaft eingeführt wird. Zur ersten Auflage: "Mit großer
Sachkenntnis und in gut lesbarer Sprache schildert Prem in kompakter Form die
gesicherten Kenntnisse über die Geschichte der beiden Kulturräume von der Vorgeschichte
bis zur spanischen Eroberung." Horst Pietschmann, FAZ

Collectively the volume expresses the richness of the issues being investigated
by comparative theorists interested in long-term change, as well as the wide variety of data,
approaches, and ideas that researchers are employing to examine these questions. This
volume—the fourteenth in the monograph series on the prehistory and human ecology of
the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico—focuses on Cerro Tilcajete, a secondary administrative center
below Monte Albán, the capital of the prehispanic Zapotec state. After defeating the
Tilcajete region, Monte Albán created a new administrative center for the Ocatlán region:
Cerro Tilcajete. Elson's excavations at the Period II center showed that, in contrast to San
José Mogote, Cerro Tilcajete was a newly created regional center rather than a
reoccupation of an earlier site, and documented the nature of Cerro Tilcajete's ties to Monte
Albán, especially the links between the elite families at the capital and those at Cerro
Tilcajete. Elson deftly moves us away from the top-down, capital-centric focus, and in so
doing, gives us new insights into secondary administrative centers in a pristine
state.

Collection of articles providing new research on warfare in ancient Maya and other
Mesoamerican societies based on archaeological, ethnohistorical, and linguistic
evidence. Ancient American palaces still captivate those who stand before them. Even in their
fallen and ruined condition, the palaces project such power that, according to the editors of
this new collection, it must have been deliberately drawn into their formal designs, spatial
layouts, and choice of locations. Such messages separated palaces from other elite
architecture and reinforced the power and privilege of those residing in them. Indeed, as
Christie and Sarro write, "the relation between political power and architecture is a
pervasive and intriguing theme in the Americas." Given the variety of cultures, time periods,
and geographical locations examined within, the editors of this book have grouped the
articles into four sections. The first looks at palaces in cultures where they have not
previously been identified, including the Huaca of Moche Site, the Wari of Peru, and Chaco
Canyon in the U.S. Southwest. The second section discusses palaces as "stage sets" that
express power, such as those found among the Maya, among the Coast Salish of the Pacific
Northwest, and at El Tajín on the Mexican Gulf Coast. The third part of the volume presents
cases in which differences in elite residences imply differences in social status, with
examples from Pasado de la Amada, the Valley of Oaxaca, Teotihuacan, and the Aztecs. The
final section compares architectural strategies between cultures; the models here are
Farfán, Peru, under both the Chimú and the Inka, and the separate states of the Maya and
the Inka. Such scope, and the quality of the scholarship, make Palaces and Power in the
Americas a must-have work on the subject.

Monte Albán was the capital of the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico, ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 600, but once its control began to wane, other sites filled
the political vacuum. Archaeologists have long awaited a meticulous excavation of one of
these sites—which would help us better understand the process that transformed second-tier
sites into a series of polities or señoríos that competed with each other for centuries. This
new book reports in detail on Ronald Faulseit's excavations at the site of Dainzú—

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Read Online The Cloud People Divergent Evolution Of The Zapotec And Mixtec Civilizations

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How did our current society come into being and how is it similar to as well as different from its predecessors? These key questions have transfixed archaeologists, anthropologists and historians for decades and strike at the very heart of intellectual debate across a wide range of disciplines. Yet scant attention has been given to the key thinkers and theoretical traditions that have shaped these debates and the conclusions to which they have given rise. This pioneering book explores the profound influence of one such thinker - Karl Marx - on the course of twentieth-century archaeology. Patterson reveals how Australian archaeologist V. Gordon Childe in the late 1920s was the first to synthesize discourses from archaeologists, sociologists, and Marxists to produce a corpus of provocative ideas. He analyzes how these ideas were received and rejected, and moves on to consider such important developments as the emergence of a new archaeology in the 1960s and an explicitly Marxist strand of archaeology in the 1970s. Specific attention is given to the discussion arenas of the 1990s, where archaeologists of differing theoretical perspectives debated issues of historic specificity, social transformation, and inter-regional interaction. How did the debates in the 1990s pave the way for historical archaeologists to investigate the interconnections of class, gender, ethnicity, and race? In what ways did archaeologists make use of Marxist concepts such as contradiction and exploitation, and how did they apply Marxist analytical categories to their work? How did varying theoretical groups critique one another and how did they overturn or build upon past generational
issues of formation and evolution of the early (archaic) state continue to remain among those problems which have not found generally accepted solutions yet. New research shows more and more clearly that pathways to statehood and early state types were numerous. On the other hand, research has detected such directions of sociocultural evolution, which do not lead to state formation at all, whereas within certain evolutionary patterns transition to statehood takes place on levels of complexity far exceeding the ones indicated by conventional evolutionist schemes. Contributors to The Early State, Its Alternatives and Analogues represent both traditional and non-traditional points of view on evolution of statehood. However, the data presented in the volume seem to demonstrate in a fairly convincing manner a great diversity of pathways to statehood, as well as non-universality of transformation into states of complex and even supercomplex societies.

A study of social and political transformation and development of statehood in Oaxaca. "Zapotec is one of the major hieroglyphic writing systems of ancient Mesoamerica. This volume explains the origins and spread of Zapotec writing, the role of Zapotec writing in the changing political agendas of the region, and the decline of hieroglyphic writing in the Valley of Oaxaca." -- Provided by publisher

Archaeology of Households, Kinship, and Social Change offers new perspectives on the processes of social change from the standpoint of household archaeology. This volume develops new theoretical and methodological approaches to the archaeology of households pursuing three critical themes: household diversity in human residential
communities with and without archaeologically identifiable houses, interactions within and between households that explicitly considers impacts of kin and non-kin relationships, and lastly change as a process that involves the choices made by members of households in the context of larger societal constraints. Encompassing these themes, authors explore the role of social ties and their material manifestations (within the house, dwelling, or other constructed space), how the household relates to other social units, how households consolidate power and control over resources, and how these changes manifest at multiple scales. The case studies presented in this volume have broader implications for understanding the drivers of change, the ways households create the contexts for change, and how households serve as spaces for invention, reaction, and/or resistance.

Understanding the nature of relationships within households is necessary for a more complete understanding of communities and regions as these ties are vital to explaining how and why societies change. Taking a comparative outlook, with case studies from around the world, this volume will inform students and professionals researching household archaeology and be of interest to other disciplines concerned with the relationship between social networks and societal change.

Household archaeology, together with community and regional settlement information, forms the basis for a unique local perspective of Andean prehistory in this study of the evolution of the site of Lukurmata, a pre-Columbian community in highland Bolivia. First established nearly two thousand years ago, Lukurmata grew to be a major ceremonial center in the Tiwanaku state, a polity that dominated the south-central Andes from a.d. 400 to 1200. After the Tiwanaku state collapsed, Lukurmata rapidly declined, becoming once again a small village. In his analysis of a 1300-year-long sequence of house remains at Lukurmata, Marc Bermann traces patterns and changes in the organization of domestic life, household ritual, ties to other communities, and mortuary activities, as well as household adaptations to overarching political and economic trends. Prehistorians have long studied the processes of Andean state formation, expansion, and decline at the regional level, notes Bermann. But only now are we beginning to understand how these changes affected the lives of the residents at individual settlements. Presenting a "view from below" of Andean prehistory based on a remarkably extensive data set, Lukurmata is a rare case study of how prehispanic polities can be understood in new ways if prehistorians integrate the different lines of evidence available to them. Originally published in 1994. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.
approach, as explicated by the contributors in this work, offers novel insights into topics that include the emergence, stasis, collapse and extinction of cultural patterns, and development of social inequalities. Consequently, these contributions form a stepping off point for a significant new range of cultural evolutionary studies.

This volume incorporates historical, ethnographic, art historical, and archaeological sources to examine the relationship between the production of space and political order in the West African Kingdom of Dahomey during the tumultuous Atlantic Era. Dahomey, situated in the modern Republic of Bénin, emerged in this period as one of the principal agents in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and an exemplar of West African state formation. Drawing from eight years of ethnohistorical and archaeological fieldwork in the Republic of Bénin, the central thesis of this volume is that Dahomean kings used spatial tactics to project power and mitigate dissent across their territories. J. Cameron Monroe argues that these tactics enabled kings to economically exploit their subjects and to promote a sense of the historical and natural inevitability of royal power.

American archaeology today encompasses a huge range of approaches and draws eclectically on a multitude of academic disciplines. Until now, however, there has been no book seeking to separate the main strands and traditions of research and present a rounded picture of American archaeological thought in all its diversity. The seventeen essays in Archaeological Thought in America describe recent theoretical advances and present substantive interpretations of prehistoric data drawn from a variety of cultures and time-frames, including Mesoamerica, Central Asia, India and China. The contributors include many of the leading North American archaeologists of this generation.

Although the concepts and patterns of ritual varied through time in relation to general sociopolitical transformations and local historical circumstances in ancient Mesoamerica, most archaeologists would agree that certain underlying themes and structures modeled the ritual phenomena of this complex culture area. By focusing on ritual expression at the household level, this volume seeks to compare the manifestations of domestic ritual across time and space in both the cores and peripheries, in the cities and in the villages. The authors explore the ways in which cosmological principles and concepts of the sacred were used in the construction of ritual space and practice, how local landscapes provided templates for the images and paraphernalia recovered from archaeological contexts, how foreign enclaves relied on ritual for social reproduction, and how domestic ritual was related to, and indeed embedded in, institutionalized state religions.

The concept of civilization has long been the basis for theories about how societies evolve. This provocative book challenges that concept. The author argues that a "civilization bias" shapes academic explanations of urbanization, colonization, state formation, and cultural horizons. Earlier theorists have criticized the concept, but according to Jennings the critics remain beholden to it as a way of making sense of a dizzying landscape of cultural variation. Relying on the idea of civilization, he suggests, holds back understanding of the development of complex societies. Killing Civilization uses case studies from across the modern and ancient world to develop a new model of incipient urbanism and its consequences, using excavation and survey data from Çatalhöyük, Cahokia, Harappa, Jenne-jeno, Tiahuanaco, and Monte Albán to create a more accurate picture of the turbulent social, political, and economic conditions in and around the earliest cities. The book will influence not just anthropology but all of the social sciences.